of this policy measure on the local market may immediately not be known. However, the government constantly monitors the situation and import duties on agricultural products are adjusted accordingly, so that domestic manufacturers and farmers are not seriously affected.

Trade with Netherland

1835. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand bilateral trade with Netherland;

(b) if so, the new areas identified therefor; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to promote Indo-Netherland bilateral trade?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the recent visit of Netherlands Minister for Trade (Mr. Gerrit Ybema) the two sides exchanged views for stepping up bilateral trade and economic co-operation. The Indian side sought increased investment from Netherland in areas such as agro processing, energy, pollution control, horticulture, floriculture, bio-technology, computer software, chemicals, infrastructure, etc.

(c) The steps taken to promote Indo-Netherlands trade include liberalisation of trade and investment climate in the country, putting in place bilateral framework agreements for avoidance of double taxation and promotion and protection of mutual investments, exchange of delegations, etc.

Import and export of cotton

†1836. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cotton has been imported as well as exported during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the quantity and value of import and export made during each of the said years; and

(c) the reasons for which Government gave their approval for import as well as export from the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cotton was imported as well as exported during 1997-98 and 1998-99, as given below:—

Cotton Imports into India:

	Qty.(MT)	Value (Rs. lakh)
1997-98	8823.62	7894.67
1998-99(P)	55523.00	37160.41

P= Provisional
Note: Data for financial year 1998-99 includes cotton wastes.
Source: Directorate General, commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCIS), Calcutta, Import Volume (March 1998 & 1999 issues)

Cotton Exports from India:

	Qty.(Lakh Bales)	Value (Rs. lakh)
1997-98	3.4937	31885.31
1998-99	1.01253	8671.62

Note: Including spill over shipment of previous year.
Source: Office of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai.

(c) Since early 90's the Government of India has been pursuing the policy of removing restriction on International Trade. Import restrictions on cotton has been removed as per the same policy. Cotton import is under OGL now. Cotton exports from the country are undertaken with a view to retain India's continued presence in the international market, to ensure remunerative prices to the cotton growers and to earn valuable foreign exchange.

Import and Export of Pulses under OGL

†1837. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.